

February 19, 2004

**Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Spaletta Culvert Replacement, WDID No. 1B03181WNME  
Mendocino County**

On October 17, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Cathy McKeon of Rau and Associates, Inc., on behalf of Mr. Cliff Spaletta, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Spaletta Culvert Replacement Project in Mendocino County. The application was deemed complete on November 17, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with Unnamed Creek tributary to the West Fork of the Russian River in the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00 and the Coyote Valley Sub Hydrologic Area No. 114.32.

The proposed project is located at 15751 Tomki Road, Redwood Valley, Mendocino County, California. The purpose of the project is to replace a failing culvert on an unnamed intermittent tributary of the Russian River and to stabilize an eroding bank at two locations along the mainstem Russian River. The culvert crossing currently serves a primary dwelling. The existing culvert has been washed out and finally failed. Emergency measures were implemented to repair a failing culvert during November to allow for continued access to the primary residence. Prior to implementation, staff at the Regional Water Board gave authorization for the emergency measures to be carried out. The intent of the project is to reestablish pre-failure grades and revegetate the slope.

The proposed project consists of the replacement of a failed culvert with the installation of a 70-foot-long 24-inch culvert on an ephemeral stream channel that is tributary to the West Fork of the Russian River. The culvert transports water under a driveway that is the only legal access to a year-round single family residence. The project proposal includes replacement of the crushed 22-inch culvert with a 24-inch corrugated high-density polyethylene (HPDE) culvert. The 24-inch culvert is designed to pass a 100-year storm event. The culvert outlet will be approximately the same as the original culvert outlet. Approximately 0.1-acre will be filled with approximately 42 cubic yards of structural backfill and 80 cubic yards of embankment material. From the new culvert outlet to the toe-of-slope, a rock energy dissipater would be constructed in the eroding tributary. Overall, according to the application, the proposed project will impact approximately 0.0287-acre of stream channel and bank, through the discharge of approximately 50 cubic yards of fill material below the OHW, resulting in alteration of 45 lineal feet of tributary channel and 10 feet of mainstem channel. The portion of the ephemeral drainage where the culvert is being replaced is highly disturbed and according to the applicant, and does not have a high fisheries value.

The failed stream bank will be stabilized by filling and compacting the area to a 1.5:1 slope (pre-slipout slope) and installing a willow brush mattress over the fill slope. To accomplish the bank stabilization, approximately 0.6 cubic yards/lineal foot of fill material below the ordinary high water (OHW) will be necessary. These construction activities would require the discharge of approximately 15 cubic yards of fill material below the OHW. The stabilization project will result in alteration of 25 lineal feet of the mainstem Russian River channel. All work will be performed from the top of the bank. The work will be performed between June 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid impacts to water quality and aquatic resources.

There are two areas of potential stockpiling that may occur during the project, on the north side of the bridge and on the east side of the driveway. It is anticipated that the maximum amount of stockpiled materials at one time would not exceed 40 cubic yards.

No compensatory mitigation is proposed for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the installation of a brush mattress over the fill slope to stabilize the bank. In addition, the project applicant proposes to use erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the potential of sediment discharges to surface waters.

The Regional Water Board, acting as a lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has determined that this project qualifies for a categorical exemption Class 4 CCR 15061(b)(3).

The nearest receiving water is an unnamed tributary, and the West Fork of the Russian River in the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00 and the Coyote Valley Sub Hydrologic Area No. 114.32.

The proposed project is scheduled to begin after June 15 and be complete no later than October 15, 2004. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at [jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.